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March 28, 2017

By ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: TruConnect Communications, Inc. Lifeline Broadband Provider and
Sage Telecom Communications, LLC Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier Requests; WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

TruConnect Communications, Inc. (TruConnect or the Company) by and through the undersigned counsel, hereby submits this letter regarding its petition for designation as a Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designation that is currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission (Commission).¹ Specifically, this letter:

1. Proposes, as an alternative to grant of TruConnect's pending LBP Petition, that the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) treat TruConnect's LBP Petition as a supplement to a pending petition for designation as a wireless Lifeline-only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) for TruConnect's commonly-owned affiliate, Sage Telecom Communications, LLC (Sage).² The Bureau should then

¹ See TruConnect Communications, Inc. Petition for Streamlined Designation as a Lifeline Broadband Provider Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, WC Docket No. 09-197 (filed Oct. 3, 2016) (LBP Petition).

² See Sage Telecom Communications, LLC Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and

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grant Sage's ETC Petition, as modified by the LBP Petition, expeditiously, and no later than April 3, 2017 (the deadline for the Bureau to act on TruConnect's LBP Petition pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Lifeline Modernization Order);³

2. Clarifies the states and service areas in the Sage ETC Petition and LBP Petition where TruConnect seeks authority to provide Lifeline broadband services (including removal of federally recognized Tribal lands from the LBP Petition);
3. Identifies the proposed Lifeline service plans that TruConnect would offer in the states covered by the Sage ETC Petition; and
4. Assures the Commission of TruConnect's ongoing commitment to comply with all applicable Lifeline program rules and orders.

TruConnect's and Sage's Pending Petitions and Request for Immediate Action

The Bureau approved Sage's Lifeline Compliance Plan in 2012,⁴ which allowed Sage to obtain ETC designations and begin offering Lifeline service in several states. As part of its efforts to expand the availability of its Lifeline services, Sage filed an ETC petition seeking authorization to offer Lifeline services in eleven jurisdictions that do not assert authority over wireless resellers for the purpose of Lifeline-only ETC designation. Sage's ETC Petition has been pending before the Commission for more than three years. On May 23, 2016, in response

Virginia, WC Docket No. 09-197 (Aug. 8, 2013) (Sage ETC Petition). Sage amended its petition on December 18, 2013 to add the State of Maine to its request. See Sage Telecom Communications, LLC Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Maine for the Purpose of Lifeline Service, WC Docket No. 09-197 (Dec. 18, 2013).

³ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38, ¶ 281 (rel. Apr. 27, 2016) (Lifeline Modernization Order) (establishing that "the Bureau shall act on [LBP petitions that do not meet the criteria for streamlined processing] within six months of the submission of a completed filing").

⁴ See *Wireline Competition Bureau Approves the Compliance Plans of Airvoice Wireless, Amerimex Communications, Blue Jay Wireless, Millennium 2000, Nexus Communications, PlatinumTel Communications, Sage Telecom, Telrite and Telscape Communications*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-2063 (rel. Dec. 26, 2012).

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to a Public Notice issued by the Bureau, Sage filed an affirmation statement of its continued interest in obtaining the requested ETC approvals.⁵

Additionally, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Lifeline Modernization Order, TruConnect filed its LBP Petition on October 3, 2016. TruConnect's LBP Petition remains pending.

TruConnect respectfully requests that, because the deadline to act on the LBP Petition is rapidly approaching, the Bureau allow the Company to begin offering Lifeline broadband services in at least part of the requested service territory by granting the Sage ETC Petition, as modified by the LBP Petition, as soon as possible, but no later than April 3, 2017. Alternatively, TruConnect requests, no later than April 3, 2017, standalone approval of its LBP Petition by the Bureau, including a designation that is limited to the eleven federal ETC jurisdictions identified in the Sage ETC Petition, and confirmation from the Bureau that approval of the LBP Petition will also serve as approval of a TruConnect Compliance Plan.

Requested Service Areas in the Sage ETC Petition and TruConnect's LBP Petition

The Sage ETC Petition, as amended, requests authority to provide voice and broadband Lifeline services in the following jurisdictions: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Each of these jurisdictions has provided an affirmative statement to the Commission that it does not assert authority over wireless resellers for the purpose of Lifeline-only ETC designation. In its LBP Petition, TruConnect requested authority to provide Lifeline broadband services in 47 states – including the federal ETC jurisdictions named in the Sage ETC Petition – as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. TruConnect included as an attachment to the LBP Petition a list of zip codes it can serve in each of those jurisdictions pursuant to its agreements with its underlying service providers.

To reconcile any potential discrepancies between the service areas identified in the Sage ETC Petition and the LBP Petition, TruConnect hereby clarifies that it is seeking ETC designation in the eleven federal ETC jurisdictions named in the Sage ETC Petition, with the specific service areas defined by the list of zip codes that was provided with the LBP Petition. Additionally, to assuage any potential concerns about infringing on Tribal sovereignty, TruConnect hereby modifies its LBP Petition and the Sage ETC Petition to exclude all federally

⁵ See Sage Telecom Communications, LLC dba TruConnect Affirmative Statement of Continued Interest, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42 (filed May 23, 2016).

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recognized Tribal lands within the eleven federal ETC jurisdictions.⁶ Therefore, it cannot be argued that a copy of the federal ETC Petition or LBP Petition must be provided to any Tribal authorities pursuant to section 54.202(c) of the Commission's rules. TruConnect's underlying service providers will be Sprint and T-Mobile.

TruConnect's Proposed Lifeline Service Plans

Sage's ETC Petition and TruConnect's LBP Petition provided a number of voice and broadband Lifeline service plans. TruConnect has modified its plans from time to time to respond to competitive market conditions and changes in federal law. Accordingly, to clarify its service offerings, TruConnect attaches to this letter a list of currently available voice and broadband Lifeline plans. TruConnect intends to offer similar plans in the requested states, with modifications from time to time. The Company understands that it must continue to comply with the Commission's minimum service standards for Lifeline-supported voice and broadband services, and in the future, will revise its offerings in a manner that complies with those minimum service standards.⁷

TruConnect's Commitment to Compliance with the Lifeline Program Rules and Orders

TruConnect has been and continues to be committed to complying with all the requirements set forth in the Lifeline rules and orders, including the Lifeline Modernization Order and the rules made effective in December last year. Additionally, in the future, TruConnect will implement any subsequent rule changes as of their effective date.

* * *

⁶ To the extent that any of the zip codes included in this list fall partially in a federally recognized Tribal land, TruConnect will not serve the residents of federally recognized Tribal lands within those zip codes. This commitment only applies to the federal ETC jurisdictions and does not affect any authorizations TruConnect or Sage obtained from individual states.

⁷ See Lifeline Modernization Order ¶ 93; 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.408(a)(2), (b)(2)(ii), (c).

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For all the reasons stated herein, TruConnect respectfully requests that the Bureau grant the Sage ETC Petition, as supplemented by the LBP Petition, or alternatively, issue a standalone approval of the TruConnect LBP Petition, at least for the eleven federal ETC jurisdictions identified above, as soon as possible, but no later than April 3, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Augustino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "A".

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Counsel to TruConnect Communications, Inc.

California LifeLine

Monthly	Talk & Text	Data	Int'l
\$0	Unlimited	100 MB	\$2 Credit
\$10	Unlimited	1.5 GB	\$2 Credit
\$20	Unlimited	3 GB	\$2 Credit

Texas Lifeline

Monthly	Talk & Text	Data	Int'l
\$0	100 Min, Unl't Text	500 MB	None
\$0	500 Min, Unl't Text	0 MB	None
\$15	Unlimited	500 MB	\$2 Credit
\$25	Unlimited	1.5 GB	\$2 Credit
\$35	Unlimited	3 GB	\$2 Credit

Data Refills

\$5	250 MB
\$10	500 MB
\$15	1 GB

Voice Refills

\$5	250 Min
\$10	500 Min

International

\$5	Unlimited to Mexico, China, Canada, & 55+ more
\$10	Unlimited to Columbia, India, Malaysia, & 70+ more

International Refills: \$2, \$5, \$10